

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

The Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry (M.A.T.M.) degree is a forty-eight semester hour degree with two tracks: Congregational Ministry and Social Transformation. This degree is designed for persons who serve (or plan to serve) vocationally or bi-vocationally as specialized ministers or leaders in community agencies of non-profit networks. The degree provides a basic understanding of theological disciplines with a mixture of practical coursework in order to focus on Christian service in various church and community settings. For example, the United Methodist students preparing for deacons' ordination may fulfill, with assistance from the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, UMC expectations and utilize this degree to meet specific educational requirements. Normally those pursuing ordination in a vocation other than deacon pursue the M.Div. degree. Similarly, persons interested in non-profit agency work or service in a community organization might find the M.A.T.M. a degree that provides theological education alongside experience in a chosen context of service. Certificates in Biblical Studies, Black Church Studies, History, Theology, and Ethics, Pastoral Care, and Sexual and Gender Justice are available within the structure of the program.

Curriculum

I. Distributive Requirements - 27 hrs.

A. **Religious Heritage** - 12 hrs.

1. Bible - HEBI 60003 Interpreting the Hebrew Bible and Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books and NETE 60003 Interpreting the New Testament
2. History - choose one from CHHI 60013 History of Christianity I, Early and Medieval, CHHI 60023 History of Christianity II, Reformation and Modern, or CHHI 70013 History of Christianity in America
3. Theology - CHTH 60003 Introduction to Christian Theology I

B. **Cultural/Global Context** - 6 hrs.

1. Choose one from CHET 60013 Introduction to Contemporary Theological Ethics, or CHET 65013 History of Christian Ethics
2. Choose one from CHHI 70023 The Church in the Midst of Pluralism, CHHI 70533 The Black Religious Experience in America, CHTH 70013 Postcolonial Theologies, CHTH 70043 Feminism and Theology, JWST 60003 Introduction to Judaism, RECU 60013 Religious Plurality: Theologies and Geopolitics of Religion, RECU 60023 Christian Theology of Religions, RECU 60033 Religious Fundamentalism, RECU 60043 Interreligious Dialogue, RECU 60063 World Religions and Gender, RECU 60073 Introduction to U.S. Latina/o Christianity, RECU 65053 African-American Experiences and Perspectives in Social Ethics, RECU 70003 Intro to Black Church Traditions and Culture, or RECU 70053 Studies in World Christianity

C. **Personal and Spiritual Formation** - 9 hrs.

1. Choose one from CHHI 70403 History of Christian Spirituality, SPIR 60003 Spiritual Life and Leadership, SPIR 65013 Spirituality and Ecological Justice SPIR 70013 Themes and Perspectives in American Spirituality, SPIR 70023 Spiritual Resources and Disciplines, or SPIR 70213 Spiritual Themes in Literature
2. Supervised Ministry (6 semester hours in congregational or non-profit settings): PRTH 65013 Supervised Ministry I and PRTH 65023 Supervised Ministry II

II. Specialization - 9 hrs.

Track 1: Congregational Ministry: Any combination of three courses chosen from among PRTH, WRSP, REED, PTPC, SPIR, and HOML. All prerequisites for desired courses must be met.

Track 2: Social Transformation: Any combination of three additional courses in Cultural/Global Context (see I.B.2 above), religion and culture, social ethics, or leadership. All prerequisites for desired courses must be met.

Course plans for specializations are developed in consultation with an advisor and other appropriate faculty members. The plan is to be sent to the Office of the Associate Dean prior to the completion of 18 hours. The Associate Dean, in consultation with the advisor and other appropriate faculty members will approve the plan.

III. Electives - 12 hrs.

Specialization and elective hours are to be selected in consultation with the student's faculty advisor. Graduate courses from TCU divisions normally do not receive credit toward the M.A.T.M. degree. Exceptions are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Office of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Master of Liberal Arts (MLA) courses, however, do not count toward a degree at Brite.

Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry Degree Requirements

1. Forty-eight semester hours of credit must be completed with a grade point average of at least 2.50, based on a four-point grading system.
2. All entering students are required to participate in orientation sessions conducted prior to the beginning of classes in the fall and spring semesters.
3. All entering students are required to attend a Seminar on Healthy Boundaries. Students who do not complete this requirement will be subject to the cancellation of their registration.
4. Except for approved transfer credit, M.A.T.M. students will normally fulfill all their course requirements through courses taught by Brite faculty or adjunct faculty.
5. Normally the degree requires two academic years of full-time study or the equivalent. A student who transfers from another institution must complete the final twenty-five semester hours of the M.A.T.M. program at Brite Divinity School directly under the supervision of the Brite faculty.
6. Students who give evidence of special deficiencies may be required to do remedial work in the areas of their deficiencies.
7. Students may be withdrawn from individual courses for lack of academic progress upon the recommendation of the faculty member and with the approval of the Dean. Students may be dismissed from the Divinity School at the discretion of the Dean or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at such times as it is clearly demonstrated that the student is not interested in, or making, acceptable academic progress.
8. All degree requirements must be completed within seven years from the date of the earliest credit counted toward the degree (including transfer credit, if any). Extensions may be granted in extraordinary circumstances by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs after consultation with the Masters Programs Committee. Additional course work may be required.
9. Normally, students transferring from the Brite Divinity School M.Div. program to the M.A.T.M. program must complete at least 12 hours while enrolled in the program.